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Message Text

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46
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAJ-01 /055 W
---------- 112769
P 081505Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7326
AMCONGEN MUNICH PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, RO
SUBJECT: COVERAGE OF SONNENFELDT CONTROVERSY ON VOA ROMANIAN SERIES.

REF: STATE 076031, BUCHAREST 1813

1. WE BELIEVE THAT ROMANIAN LISTENERS MAY BE BECOMING CONFUSED BY THE VARIOUS DENIALS OF THE EXISTENCE OF A "SONNENFELDT DOCTRINE" BY WH AND DEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN. AS REPORTED IN REF B, THE SONNENFELDT CONTROVERSY MAY BE LESS OF AN ISSUE WITHIN THE ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP THAN IN SOME GOR EDITORIAL STAFFS, MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS LESS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS. IN THE LATTER IT IS VERY MUCH ALIVE. ALTHOUGH WE WISH TO REAFFIRM OUR POLICY FOR THOSE WHO STILL HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT OUR EE POLICY, WE DO NOT WANT TO OVERPLAY IT OR BEWILDER VOA LISTENERS WITH COVERAGE THAT IS OVERLY SPECIFIC.

2. ACCORDINGLY, WE URGE VOA ROMANIAN LANGUAGE SERVICE TO STICK ESSENTIALLY TO CLEARCUT REAFFIRMATIONS OF OUR POLICIES WHEN REVIEWING ISSUE AND COMMENTARIES, NAMELY, STATEMENT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER BEFORE HOUSE INTER-NATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND PRESIDENT FORD'S
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MILWAUKEE SPEECH. SIMILARLY, WE BELIEVE VOA SHOULD

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NOT GIVE TOO MUCH EMPHASIS TO THE CONTINUING SONNENFELDT CONTROVERSY IN THEIR BROADCASTS TO ROMANIA. EXCEPT IN CASE OF STARTLING NEW DEVELOPMENT OR MAJOR POLICY CLARIFICATION BY SECRETARY OR PRESIDENT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE CONTINUED PROMINENT BLOW-BY-BLOW COVERAGE OF CONTROVERSY'S DETAILS CAN SERVE OUR INTERESTS.
BARNES

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Message Attributes

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To: USIA
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